



TESTIMONY OF  
WINSTON HEIMER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS  
BEFORE THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MARCH 9, 2023

**IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 6859 AN ACT CONCERNING PREDICTABLE SCHEDULING;  
SB 1177 AN ACT CONCERNING ONE FAIR WAGE;  
SB 1178 AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS;  
SB 1180 AN ACT CONCERNING RIDESHARE AND DELIVERY DRIVER MINIMUM  
STANDARDS.**

Senator Kushner, Senator Sampson, Representative Sanchez, Representative Ackert and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Winston Heimer. I am a resident of West Hartford and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans.

I write on behalf of the 50,000 members of the CT Alliance for Retired Americans which is a member of the Recovery for All Coalition. We are testifying in strong support of HB 6859, SB1177, SB 1178 and SB 1180.

These bills can do much to attract and retain a strong workforce that contributes to the Connecticut economy. All workers have a right to a good, stable job that pays them a living wage and treats them with respect. Predictable Scheduling will ensure that they have access to a stable job that respects them and their families and gives them a path to opportunity.

Seven states already operate without the tip credit and require restaurant employers to pay the full minimum wage: California, Washington, Minnesota, Alaska, Oregon, Nevada, and Montana. The District of Columbia has also eliminated its subminimum wage. It's time for Connecticut to join the ranks and offer one fair wage to its tipped workers, 70 percent of whom are women and nearly 40 percent are workers of color.

Legislation should also require all employers, regardless of size or industry, to provide paid sick time to their employees – including all types of family structures and relationships.

Additionally, rideshare and delivery drivers should have minimum pay standards and be assured of equal treatment in neighboring states as their drivers do, here.

As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what it needs to live a good life. Yet, hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier.

We can do better. We must do better.

This package of bills can show the way. We urge your support for Raised HB 6859, and Raised Senate Bills 1177, 1178 and 1180.

Thank you for your consideration.